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ISSUES

Ending the Race to the Bottom

Senator Sanders believes that we need to adopt fair trade policies which not only raise wages in this country, but lift living standards throughout the world. As president, Bernie's State Department will encourage low-wage countries to raise their minimum wage.

On this issue, Secretary Clinton and Senator Sanders have a strong difference of opinion. Here is just one example.

In June of 2009, the Haitian Parliament unanimously approved an increase in the minimum wage to 62 cents an hour — \$5 a day.

That may not seem like much, but when we talk about the race to the bottom, garment workers in Haiti are at the bottom. They are the lowest paid workers in the hemisphere.

Unfortunately, instead of working with the people of Haiti to implement an increase in the minimum wage, Secretary Clinton's State Department chose to work with Fruit of the Loom, Hanes and Levi's to block it. These companies want to pay workers in Haiti as little as possible so that multi-national CEOs can make as much money as possible. That is unacceptable.

We have got to end the race to the bottom. We must increase the minimum wage not only in the United States, but in Haiti and throughout the world. That's exactly what Senator Sanders will fight to achieve as president.